

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior and Agencies
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Dicks and Ranking Member Simpson:

We are writing to express our support for the State Wildlife Grants Program in fiscal year 2010. We greatly appreciate your support and leadership for this program, in particular for providing \$85 million in FY09's mark. As many of us requested last year, we are hopeful that such support will continue. We believe that the State Wildlife Grants Program needs \$85 million in fiscal year 2010 to adequately meet the needs of our states.

The State Wildlife Grants Program is the nation's core program to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered in every state. It is a mission-critical element of the Interior Department's budget as no other program in the federal budget is focused on this goal. As you know, United States laws and policies place the primary responsibility for wildlife management in the hands of the states. Since the 1930's, the federal government has worked in partnership with the states by providing funding for wildlife conservation programs. This funding has focused on, and been largely responsible for an enormously successful program to ensure conservation and sustainable use of important wildlife species hunted or fished by millions of sportsmen and women across America.

At the same time, many species of wildlife that are not hunted or fished have declined dramatically. The amount of federal funding needed to restore federally listed threatened and endangered species may far exceed the money required to prevent their decline in the first place. Furthermore, hundreds of species will continue to decline in the future unless resources are provided for such conservation efforts. Through early and strategic action to conserve declining wildlife populations and their habitats, we can prevent conflicts over endangered species listings and saving both wildlife and taxpayer dollars.

Adequate and consistent funding for State Wildlife Grants is essential to fulfilling the shared federal-state responsibility for keeping our nation's wildlife from becoming endangered. Taking action to conserve wildlife before it becomes endangered is environmentally sound and fiscally responsible. Now more than ever, we should be focusing limited resource on this kind of smart, effective conservation investment. In the

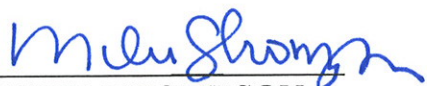
long run, the State Wildlife Grants Program will save federal taxpayers money by keeping species from declining to the point of being federally endangered.

When Congress created the State Wildlife Grants Program in FY 2001, we asked every state wildlife agency to complete a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy (state wildlife action plan). The plans were developed by scientists, managers, sportsmen, environmentalists, and other private citizens who worked together to identify practical conservation measures to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. These plans are being implemented in every state and territory, creating jobs and stimulating the economy. Congress needs to honor our commitment to this effort by providing the federal share of resources needed to undertake this critical multi-year effort.


We recognize that fiscal discipline is paramount in this time of large deficits and that the Committee is operating with finite resources. However, to the degree possible and without exceeding Interior Appropriations allocation levels, we respectfully request that you prioritize funding for this program at \$85 million for fiscal year 2010.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



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Member of Congress



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DAN BOREN
Member of Congress



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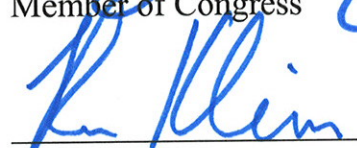

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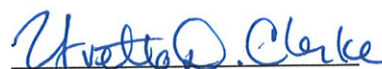

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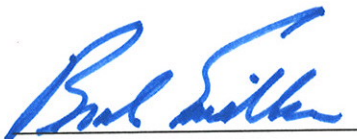

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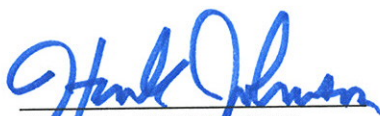
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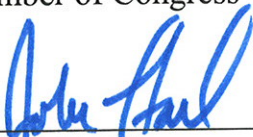
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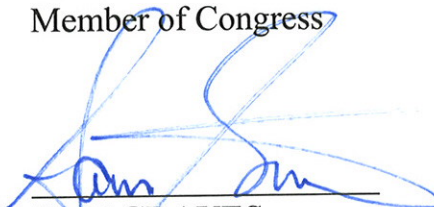
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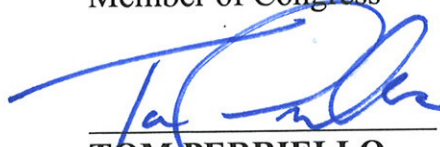
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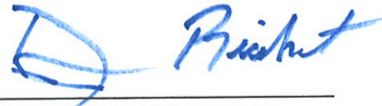
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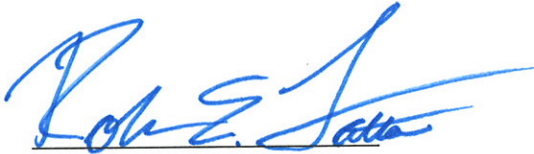
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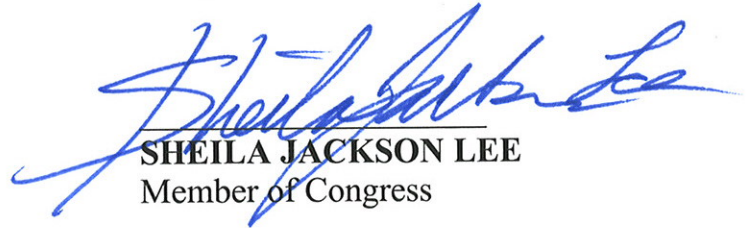
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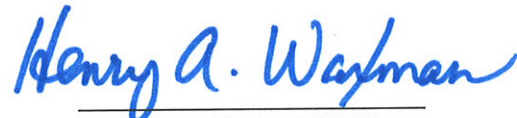
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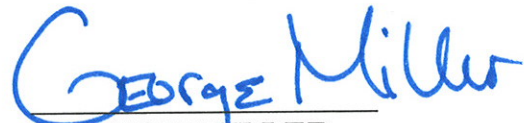
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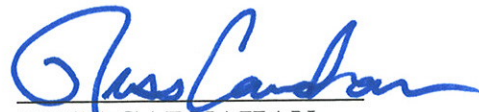
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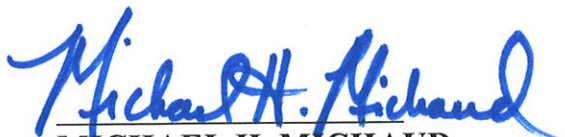
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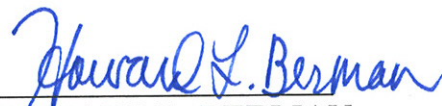
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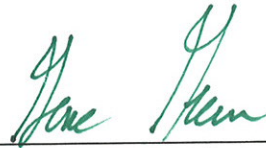
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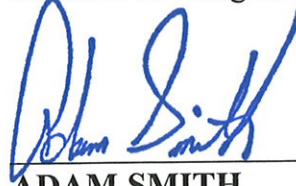
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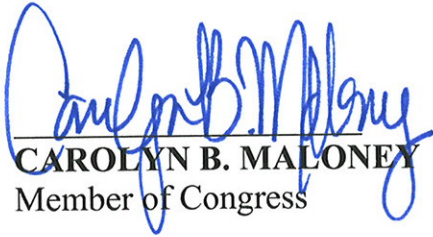
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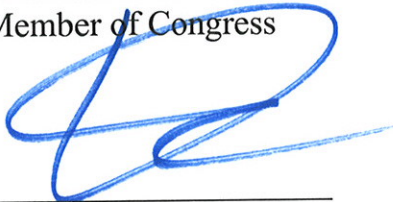
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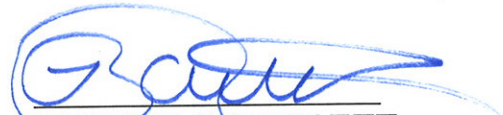
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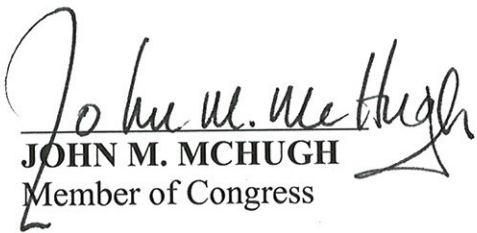
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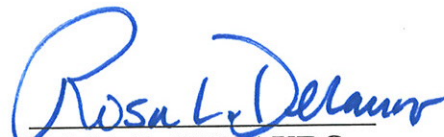
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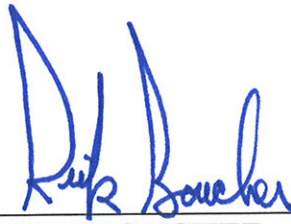
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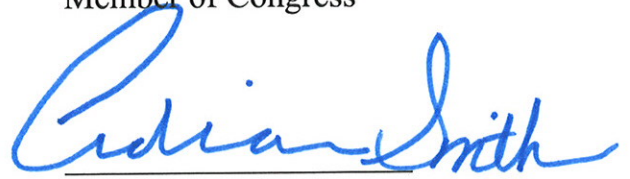
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